



To: Community Safety Committee

Date: June 15, 2012

From: Rendall Nessel  
Officer In Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment

File: 09-5350-11/2012-Vol  
01

Re: Richmond RCMP 2011-2013 Strategic Plan Update – Fiscal Year 2011/12

**Staff Recommendation**

That the report dated June 15, 2012 from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, entitled “Richmond RCMP 2011-2013 Strategic Plan Update – Fiscal Year 2011/12” be received for information.

(Rendall Nessel) Superintendent  
Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment  
(604-278-1212)

<b>REPORT CONCURRENCE</b>	
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b> 	
<b>REVIEWED BY TAG SUBCOMMITTEE</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b> 
<b>REVIEWED BY CAO</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b> 

## Origin

This report provides an update to the Richmond RCMP Strategic Plan for the fiscal year 2011/12. The Officer in Charge of the Richmond Detachment is committed to aligning the priorities of the Richmond RCMP with the City's strategic goals..

## Analysis

The Richmond RCMP Strategic Plan 2011-2013 (the "Strategic Plan") is a guiding document to enhance police service delivery in the City of Richmond and to build strong and enduring relationships with public safety agencies and community stakeholders. Richmond Detachment officers, municipal employees and volunteers are committed to the goal of "Safe Homes, Safe Communities" that supports the Law and Community Safety Department's vision "To be the safest community in Canada", which fundamentally contributes to the City of Richmond's vision "To be the most appealing, liveable and well-managed Community in Canada".

This staff report provides an update on the progress of the five strategic priorities for fiscal year 2011/12: Traffic Safety, Organized Crime, Community Engagement, Youth Engagement and Property Crime. The strategic priorities are part of the Crime Reduction Strategy to support the Richmond RCMP's strategic goal of Safe Homes, Safe Communities.

### Traffic Safety

The goal of this priority is to reduce the number of motor vehicle collisions and associated injuries. The emphasis of this strategy is placed on prevention through combined enforcement, education and problem solving.

Richmond Detachment Road Safety Unit (RSU) implemented the RCMP Pedestrian Enforcement Operational Plan and have partnered with City Bylaws, RCMP Auxiliaries, local media as well as ICBC to reducing pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries in the City. Awareness and "high visibility" enforcement campaigns for both pedestrians and motorists were conducted on high volume vehicular traffic areas and pedestrians crossings.

Richmond Detachment and RSU continued to be dedicated to the "Alexa's Team" initiative. Alexa's Team is a program that recognizes police officers who make an extraordinary contribution in reducing the number of impaired drivers on the roads of BC Communities. The BCAA Road Safety Foundation, the Alexa Middelaer's family and the Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC) are partners in Alexa's Team to honour these officers. In 2010, four members of Richmond RCMP Detachment were named members of "Alexa's Team" through their commitment in pursuing impaired driving investigations. For 2011, that number has increased significantly to nine members.

The table below highlights traffic enforcement activities in the community:

Traffic Enforcement – 2011	
Intermediate Roadside Prohibition	470
Impaired Driving Charges	400
Tickets* (# of charges)	14,934
Electronic Devices Charges	847
Excessive Speeding	153
Speed Related Violations	2,932
Drivers License Related Violations	1,488
*General Duty is tabulated by the number of tickets (not charges), while Road Safety Unit is tabulated by the number of charges for 2010 and 2011. January 2012 forward, General Duty violation tickets are tabulated by the number of charges.	

### **Organized Crime**

This priority focuses on intelligence led policing to identify criminal groups and utilize resources to target and reduce the impact of these groups on crime and the community.

*Richmond Marihuana Enforcement Team (RMET)* - RMET continues to actively investigate reported incidents involving clandestine marihuana grow operations. While the number of such grow operations had declined, the level of sophistication with respect to the complexity of the operation has increased. This trend has made it more difficult for police to identify and detect such operations. Nonetheless, RMET had successfully identified and dismantled various sophisticated marihuana grow operations in several locations in Richmond. The suspects were successfully apprehended. The arrests also identified other organized crime activities that are multi-jurisdictional in nature and investigations are ongoing.

*Drug Enforcement* – Methamphetamines and “Ecstasy<sup>1</sup>” continue to be the drugs of choice outside of marihuana and is a large source of income for criminal organizations. Richmond Drug Enforcement Team had several notable successes through 2011. A multi-jurisdictional drug distribution network was dismantled, resulting in the arrests of members of a criminal organization and the recovery of firearms.

### **Community Engagement**

This priority emphasizes partnerships between police, the community and other community agencies and resources with the goal of proactive mutual problem solving. Increased visibility and a commitment to establish relationships and develop trust are key factors in this priority.

*Community Events* – Community events big or small are important to any community. Festivals and celebrations promote cultural identities and a “sense of community belonging” to support the City as being the most appealing, liveable and well-managed community in Canada. The main

<sup>1</sup> Also referred to as MDMA (3-4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine) by scientists, it is a synthetic chemical that can be derived from an essential oil of the sassafras tree. Source: American Council for Drug Education

objective of the community policing for the Richmond RCMP is to provide a safe environment for the children and citizens to participate in local community events. The Richmond RCMP strives to provide a highly visible police presence, engage the public and the communities, control liquor in public places and protect of persons and property in these events.

In 2011, there were approximately 29 notable community events where the Richmond RCMP provided a strong presence. These events included WinterFest, Police Week, Jimmy NG Tournament, Ships to Shore, Canucks arrivals & departures at YVR, Salmon Festival, Kids SAFE, Maritime Festival, and Christmas in Steveston, as well as many more events that were sponsored by community centres and non-profit groups throughout Richmond.

Community Police Stations – The Community Police Stations in South Arm and Steveston sponsor various outreach programs and deliver Crime Prevention Programs. Such programs include, but are not limited to: Block Watch, Business Watch, Coastal Watch, Safety Talks, Home Security Checks, Lock Out Auto Crime, Stolen Auto Recovery, Pedestrian Safety, SAFE Schools, Speed Watch, Youth engagement, YVR and Community Foot/Bike/Kubota Patrols of trails, parks and dykes. The tables below highlight delivery of Crime Prevention Programs:

<b>Speed Watch – 2011</b>	
Number of Deployments	200
Total Vehicles Checked	121,452
Warning Letters Sent	5,987
Visibility and Admin Hours	1,381
<b>Lock Out Auto Crime and Stolen Auto Recovery – 2011</b>	
Vehicles viewed/checked	48,406
Vehicles scanned thru Stolen Auto Recovery	24,269
Crime Prevention Notice Issued	13,488
Patrol and Admin Hours	1,049
<b>Bike Patrols - 2011</b>	
Number of Deployments	95
Patrol Hours	1,243
<b>Other Activities - 2011</b>	
Distracted Drivers Deployments	89
Distracted Drivers Warning Letters	538
Total Number Volunteers (Approx.)	100
<b>Total Volunteer Hours</b>	<b>7,504</b>

*Auxiliary Constable Program* – The Auxiliary Constable Program strengthens community and police partnerships by providing citizen volunteers with the opportunity to perform authorized activities in support of strategies to address the causes of, or reduce the fear of, crime and disorder. The mandate of Richmond's Auxiliary Constables is to support community police activities relating to public safety and crime prevention within the City of Richmond. For 2011/12, the program totalled an amazing 7,216 volunteer hours, which is equivalent to four full-time regular member positions. Approximately 3,500 of these hours are dedicated towards community events or crime prevention activities. There are currently 34 active Auxiliary Constables serving the community of Richmond. “Exceptional Service” was awarded to three Auxiliary Constables as they dedicated over 500 volunteer hours in 2011. The Richmond Auxiliary Constable Program was also nominated by Volunteer Richmond as the Volunteer Group of the Year in 2011/12.

*Victim Services* – The Richmond RCMP police-based Victim Services offered by the City of Richmond and Richmond RCMP is to provide crime victims, witnesses and their families, and those who are experiencing trauma with professional, supportive, and timely assistance to minimize the impact of crime and trauma. Richmond RCMP Victim Witness Services opened 450 files and the crisis intervention team attended to 183 crime and trauma scenes in 2011. A large percentage of the files have been related to fatal pedestrian car accidents, assaultive type robberies, dysfunctional families in conflict and medical related sudden deaths.

The Richmond Victim Services Unit responded to two major and significant events in 2011. The first deployment was to a shooting incident on Lindsay Road. The Victim Services Unit provided group debriefing to the evacuees in English and in Mandarin, and alerted the City of Richmond's Emergency Social Services to utilize the Thompson Community Centre as a reception centre for the evacuees. The second deployment was a plane crash at YVR. An expanded team of victim services responders assisted at the crash scene with emotional witnesses, and later attended Vancouver General Hospital to assist in supporting the families of the air crew. Richmond Victim Services are still in regular contact with the victims of both of these significant events.

*Richmond Marine Patrol Program* – The Richmond RCMP Marine Patrol Program was implemented in 2011/12 and the objective is to provide police presence on waterways surrounding Richmond. Marine patrols along the south, middle and north arms of the Fraser River will be part of an ongoing enforcement and community involvement initiative that will thwart crime, engage the marine community and create safer waterways for the boating public. The Richmond Marine Patrol Program would provide the capacity to respond to emergencies in the waterways and provide a greater level of service to the marine community and the citizens of Richmond. For 2011/12, there were 52 marine patrols conducted and participation of community events such as, but not limited to: Canada Day, Celebration of Lights Fireworks and the Dragon Boat Festival. During the operations of the marine program, the Richmond RCMP has responded to emergencies such as missing persons and suicidal persons.

### **Youth Engagement**

This priority focuses on the prevention and reduction of youth involvement in criminal activity and the criminal justice system, both as victims and offenders. The Richmond RCMP is aiming to create an environment where youth can interact and develop in responsible and productive ways.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) – This is an ongoing initiative for the Richmond Youth Section. It is a 10 week program taught by uniformed members to all grade 5 students in Richmond. Considerable commitment is required from the schools, community, students and RCMP member to successfully facilitate this program. The table below highlights the participation of the program:

2010/11 School Year	
Number of schools involved:	42
Number of classes taught:	62
Number of students attended D.A.R.E.:	1,708
2011/12 School Year (From September to March 2012)	
Number of schools involved:	17
Number of classes taught:	26
Number of students attended D.A.R.E.:	690

Youth Intervention and Restorative Justice Program – This program is to provide assessment, counselling and/or referral services to youth (17 years and younger). A referral is intended to provide youth offenders an opportunity to learn more productive and socially acceptable behaviours and to understand the consequences of continued criminal behaviour. The goals of the program are to prevent the youth from committing further offences and to assist the family with resolving underlying issues, which may be contributing to problematic behaviour. For 2011/12, there were 164 referrals to the Youth Intervention Program and 42 referrals for Restorative Justice in Richmond.

School Liaison – Youth Section members are assigned different high schools in the community. The members take ownership of the schools in their area and conduct regular visits to engage students and to deal with any issues/files that arise. Liaison duties also include educating students on various topics either informally or formally through class presentations. For 2011/12, there were approximately 35 presentations made on various subjects such as internet safety, drugs, bullying, experience of policing in overseas tours, criminology and careers in law enforcement.

Adopt-A-School – The Richmond RCMP balances education and enforcement with many proactive programs like the Adopt-a-School program. The Adopt-a-School program fosters opportunities for positive contact with Richmond's youth and to build rapport with school administrators. Uniformed members from General Duty were designated to conduct school visits and provide educational resources for the 46 elementary schools in the community. Morning and afternoon school traffic can be chaotic. Traffic enforcement was frequently conducted as part of the program to ensure the safety of pedestrians and the orderly flow of vehicles. For the 2010/2011 school year, 1,864 school visits were conducted and 163 traffic enforcement activities performed. From September 2011 to March 2012, there have been 1,139 school visits and 105 traffic enforcements, respectively.

Youth Academy – During the spring of each year, the Lower Mainland RCMP organizes a Youth Academy for students interested in a career in law enforcement. The Richmond Detachment

receives numerous applications of interest from various high schools in Richmond. As part of the selection process, the student applicants go through a rigorous selection process. Students must be in grade 11 or 12, pass an interview, satisfy a police background check and pass a physical test prior to being accepted. The Youth Academy is an eight day "mini depot" to provide a brief representation of what a police officer's day entails. In 2012, nine students from the Richmond School District participated in the RCMP Youth Academy. Two members from the Youth Section participated as instructors in this year's program. In addition, four Regular Members and four Auxiliary Constables volunteered for the event as actors for scenarios and mentors.

### **Property Crime**

This priority aims to reduce property crime related offences (for example: auto theft, break and enter, theft and fraud). Prevention, education, and the implementation of intelligence led, proactive policing initiatives are the foundation of this strategy, all supported through the implementation of Crime Reduction Strategies based on data analysis.

*Crime Reduction Strategy* – The Richmond RCMP continues to utilize Crime Reduction Strategies to address emerging crime trends and prolific offenders through collaboration and sharing of intelligence from all departments. Representatives from general duty, specialized units, criminal intelligence analysts and community policing meet on a 28 day cycle to strategise short and medium term enforcement and operations activities. Pooling of resources and information sharing resulted in comprehensive and effective approaches to drive down the crime rate by targeting causes of crime and to increase confidence in the justice system to keep communities safe.

A "Richmond Prolific Offender Management Working Group" has been established by the Non-Commission Officer In Charge of the Quick Response Team (QRT) that includes representatives from Crown Counsel, Federal Parole, Probation, and members of the QRT. The objective of the working group is to enhance communication and encourage a collaborative approach to offender management. The working group meet regularly to work on ways to reduce crime and increase offender accountability in Richmond.

*Lock Out Auto Crime Program* – Theft from vehicle hot spots were identified by crime analysts and community volunteers attended those areas and distributed informational brochures to educate motorists to become less vulnerable. A new pamphlet was generated for distribution to the motoring public. Overall, thefts from vehicles was reported to have declined 23% in 2011 from 2010.

*Prolific Offenders* – Richmond RCMP Quick Response Team (QRT) is responsible for the management of the Prolific Offenders identified within the community. An updated QRT training presentation has been developed and provided to General Duty to give them information on the Prolific/Priority Offender program, the Richmond Fugitive Return Program (FRP) and the PRIME FYI. The PRIME FYI bulletin board provides real time intelligence to members on the road and has evolved to currently contain the following: Stolen Vehicle list, Active Address list, Prolific Offender list, Curfew/Condition Checks list, as well as other postings related to investigations and information pertaining to police/public safety.

QRT members have adopted a pro-active and targeted approach to managing chronic and high risk offenders of interest and those who are on parole and probation. Checks of parolees and offenders are conducted on a regular basis by the QRT to ensure compliance with their conditions of release. Those who fail to comply with their bail/release conditions are brought before the court. The QRT relay this information with its partners such as parole and probation. A list of those parolees identified for regular check up is posted to the PRIME FYI to encourage pro-active checks by general duty police officers.

Property Crime – Break and enters to residences have shown an increase from 2010 to 2011, while commercial break and enters have declined. An example of a Crime Reduction strategy employed by the Richmond Property Crime Unit was a town hall meeting held in east Richmond where feedback and education to the area homeowners was provided to assist them in safe guarding their properties. Property Crime Unit members continue to proactively investigate all break and enters and had several key successes through the course of 2011. Most significantly a well organized group was identified conducting day light break and enters to Richmond homes. The identified suspects were charged with the assistance of neighbouring police agencies.

The table below highlights property crime statistics in the community:

Property Crime – 2011 (Number of occurrences and percentage change from previous year)	
Break and Enter – Residential	701 (+28%)
Break and Enter – Commercial	365 (-31%)
Break and Enter – Other	99 (+68%)
Auto Theft	285 (-34%)

Economic Crime – The Richmond Economic Crime Unit had several key successes in 2011 targeting specifically credit card skimming and fraud related activities. In one instance, a suspect was identified and charged in relation to credit card and identity theft and was linked to fraud related activity throughout the lower mainland. Another occurrence related to a couple being charged with fraud in relation to identity theft involving passports, drivers licences, social insurance cards, and Canadian citizenship cards. Credit card and debit card fraud continue to be a significant concern in the lower mainland and particularly in Richmond.

The Richmond RCMP has seen a slight decrease in all fraud related files in 2011/12 totalling 593, a decrease of 3% from 2010/11 of 613 files. Approximately 32% of all fraud files are of the credit/debit card type. In total, 57 files have charges forwarded to crown counsel for approval in 2011/12.

### **Richmond Community Safety Building**

In September of 2011, the Richmond RCMP relocated to the new Richmond Community Safety Building (CSB) located at 11411 No 5. Road. The Richmond CSB will serve as the new headquarters for the Richmond RCMP Detachment and building space was also leased to a number of the RCMP regional services, including the Integrated Forensic Identification Service and Police Dog Service.



The new building incorporates a variety of improvements, including cutting edge technology such as a new non-criminal digital fingerprint scanner used for criminal background searches. The digital fingerprint scanner is inkless and greatly enhances the speed of search results. Traditional ink-based fingerprint criminal background searches could take weeks to complete but with the digital fingerprint scanner, the search would be completed within an hour. The Richmond CSB also features a modernized cell block that meets the national standards and is designed to improve prisoner and officer safety. It is monitored 24 hours a day through a fully automated Closed Circuit Video Monitoring system.

### **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact.

### **Conclusion**

This Richmond RCMP 3 Year Strategic Plan serves as a road map to assist Richmond RCMP members in focusing their efforts toward priorities identified through a collaborative process. Crime Reduction strategies currently employed at the Richmond Detachment and will compliment our strategic priorities with the positive outcome of Safe Homes, Safe Communities.



Douglas Liu  
Risk Management Coordinator  
(604-207-4871)

---

<sup>i</sup> Law and Community Safety – Strategic Plan 2008-2011